

SBCJC
DINNER MEETING
BOARD WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 18, 1995

MINUTES

The Board met at 7:00 p.m. at the Comfort Inn in Clarksdale, Mississippi on October 18, 1995. Members present included Paul Breazeale, Patricia Puckett, William Seal, Perrin Purvis, Nell Rogers, and George Walker. Members absent were Yvonne Brown, John Junkin, and Alton Bankston. Others present were Olon Ray, Larry Day, Frankie White, Robert McClellan, Ed Schneider, Becky Cade, Deborah Gilbert, Sandra Lucas, Vivian Presley, Dwight Presley, Rosetta Howard, Lois McMurchy, John Mayo, Charles White, Jean Brandon, Charles Reid, and Willie French.

Prior to the official start of the board's dinner meeting, Dr. Presley, President of Coahoma Community College and host for the SBCJC's October board meeting, welcomed everyone to Clarksdale and to Coahoma Community College. The dinner meal, catered by Coahoma Community College, was then served.

After dinner, Mr. Paul Breazeale, SBCJC Chairman, called the meeting to order. The Workforce Education committee met as a committee of the whole. Therefore, Mr. Breazeale called on Mr. George Walker, chairman of the Workforce Education Committee.

Mr. Walker thanked everyone for participating in the afternoon tour of his plant, Delta Wire. Further, Mr. Walker thanked Coahoma Community College for its continued support and assistance in training Delta Wire and Clarksdale citizens.

Mr. Walker provided an overview of the recent workforce meetings with the Governor and the six agency heads participating on the State Workforce Development Council. One topic discussed during the Governor's meeting was block grants. Mr. Walker explained that he and Dr. Ray had recently returned from a Chapel Hill, North Carolina meeting with consultants at MDC, Inc. about the inevitability of block grants. It appears block grants with an emphasis on workforce education are coming to the Governors with some restriction. With the advent of new federal legislation, the challenge for the SBCJC, the Community and Junior Colleges, and State Workforce Council is to be certain community colleges are the main focus for support and training.

Mr. Walker stated that a State Workforce Council sub-committee, Block Grant Committee, was established to brainstorm and develop a plan for operation of federal workforce education block grants. Several committee meetings are scheduled including a preliminary meeting on October 27, 1995, and another on November 3, 1995.

Mr. Walker recommended that the SBCJC ask for a deficit appropriation from the legislature in December. He pointed out that the Workforce and Education Act of 1994 may have created an insatiable demand among businesses/industries with unlimited needs requirements. It was noted that failure to deliver once business/industry support the Act will result in failure of the Act itself.

On a motion by Perrin Purvis, seconded by Billy Seal, the Board approved seeking a deficit appropriation from the legislature for 1996. Motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Perrin Purvis, seconded by Nell Rogers, the Board approved increasing the appropriation requested for FY 97 from the Legislature for Workforce Education to augment the Workforce Education Act of 1994 and provide more resources to the colleges. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Walker then pointed out the support the college Presidents are providing the State Workforce Council by their attendance at recent State Workforce Council meetings.

Mr. Breazeale thanked George Walker for his continued hard work in support of workforce education and the State Workforce Council.

Several scheduling announcements were made about the October 19, 1995 SBCJC meeting and tour of Coahoma. The meeting then adjourned at 8:05 p.m.